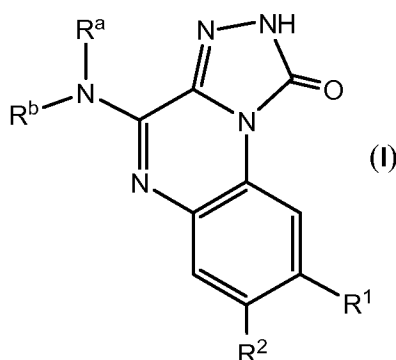


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented): A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

$R^a$  and  $R^b$  are, independently:

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) acetyl;

(iii)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of:

(a) halogen; (b)  $-NR^3R^4$ ; (c)  $-COR^5$ ; (d)  $-OR^6$ ; (e) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (f) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; (g)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; or (h)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; wherein:

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  are independently:

(j) hydrogen; (k) amidino; (l) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; cyano; nitro;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or  $-COR^5$ ; (m)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; aryl; or heteroaryl; (n) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; cyano; nitro;  $-COR^5$ ;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (o)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or (p)  $-COR^5$ ;

$R^5$  is (q) hydroxy; (r)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy or aryl; (s)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (t) heteroaryl; or (u)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and

R<sup>6</sup> is (v) -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy or aryl; (w) heteroaryl; or (x) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl;

(iv) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)cycloalkyl; or

(v) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; -COR<sup>5</sup>; -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy; or

R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup>, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring, optionally having from 1-3 additional heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur, wherein said 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring is optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; or heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; and cyano; and

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of amino; halogen; hydrogen; trifluoromethyl; nitro; -COR<sup>5</sup>; -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; -CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; and -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl; -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; aryl; heteroaryl; or hydroxy;

provided when R<sup>a</sup> is hydrogen, and R<sup>b</sup> is hydrogen or isopropyl, R<sup>1</sup> is not halogen.

2. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

R<sup>a</sup> is hydrogen;

R<sup>b</sup> is selected from the group consisting of (iii) -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally substituted with: (b) -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>4</sup> is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano; -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl; -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy; or -COR<sup>5</sup>; (e) aryl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 halogen atoms; (f) heteroaryl; (h) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl; (iv) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)cycloalkyl; or (v) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen; halogen; -COR<sup>5</sup>; -CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl or -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; and

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen; -CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl or -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>.

3. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

R<sup>a</sup> is hydrogen;

R<sup>b</sup> is (iii) -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)alkyl, optionally substituted with (b) -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>4</sup> is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano; -

(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl; or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy; (e) aryl; (f) heteroaryl; (h) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)heterocycloalkyl; (iv) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl; or (v) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)heterocycloalkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen; fluoro; chloro; bromo; -COR<sup>5</sup>, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydroxy or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy; or -CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; and R<sup>4</sup> is -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy; and

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or -CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; and R<sup>4</sup> is -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally substituted with -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy.

4. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

8-fluoro-4-cyclohexyllamino-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-(piperidin-4-ylamino)-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-(4-phenyl-propylamino)-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-amide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid-dimethylamide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-7-carboxylic acid-methylamide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid-isobutyl amide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-7-carboxylic acid-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-methyl amide;

4-isopropylamino-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-8-carboxylic acid, sodium salt;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-butylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-ethylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(benzoxazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-chloro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-bromo-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-chloro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

4-[2-(1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-propylamino]-8-fluoro-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

2-[2-(8-fluoro-1-oxo-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxalin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-isonicotinic acid;

4-[2-(6-methoxy-benzothiazol-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-bromo-4-[2-(1H-indol-3-yl)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-(tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylamino)-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(1H-indol-3-yl)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(quinolin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(2-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(3-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-morpholin-4-ylmethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyrimidin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-propylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(5-cyano-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-propylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(6-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-[1,6]naphthyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(6-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethyl]-amino-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(7-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[2-(8-trifluoromethyl-quinolin-4-ylamino)-ethylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one;

8-fluoro-4-[3-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-propylamino]-2H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-1-one; or

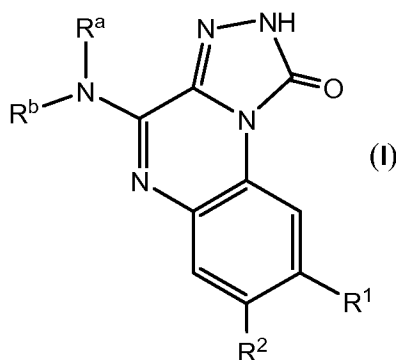
1-oxo-4-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-ylamino)-ethylamino]-1,2-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]quinoxaline-7-carboxylic acid methyl ester;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutically composition comprising the compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.

Claims 6-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New ): A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

R<sup>a</sup> is:

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) acetyl;

(iii) -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of:

(a) halogen; (b) -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>; (c) -COR<sup>5</sup>; (d) -OR<sup>6</sup>; (e) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy; (f) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl or -(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; (g) -(C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>11</sub>)cycloalkyl; or

(h)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy;

$R^b$  is:

(i) acetyl;

(ii)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of:

(a) halogen; (b)  $-NR^3R^4$ ; (c)  $-COR^5$ ; (d)  $-OR^6$ ; (e) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (f) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; (g)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; or (h)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy;

$R^3$  and  $R^4$  are independently:

(j) hydrogen; (k) amidino; (l) aryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; cyano; nitro;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or  $-COR^5$ ; (m)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; aryl; or heteroaryl; (n) heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; cyano; nitro;  $-COR^5$ ;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (o)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or (p)  $-COR^5$ ;

$R^5$  is (q) hydroxy; (r)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy or aryl; (s)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (t) heteroaryl; or (u)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and

$R^6$  is (v)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy or aryl; (w) heteroaryl; or (x)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl;

(iv)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; or

(v)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen;  $-COR^5$ ;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; or

$R^a$  and  $R^b$ , taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring, optionally having from 1-3 additional heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur, wherein said 5- or 6-membered heterocycloalkyl ring is optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; or heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of halogen; trifluoromethyl; and cyano; and

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of amino; halogen; hydrogen; trifluoromethyl; nitro;  $-COR^5$ ;  $-NR^3R^4$ ;  $-CONR^3R^4$ ; and  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and

independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;  $-NR^3R^4$ ; aryl; heteroaryl; or hydroxy;

provided when  $R^a$  is hydrogen, and  $R^b$  is isopropyl,  $R^1$  is not F, Cl or Br.

16. (New) The compound of claim 15, wherein:

$R^a$  is hydrogen;

$R^b$  is selected from the group consisting of (iii)  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with: (b)  $-NR^3R^4$ , wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen and  $R^4$  is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; or  $-COR^5$ ; (e) aryl, optionally substituted with from 1-3 halogen atoms; (f) heteroaryl; (h)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; (iv)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ cycloalkyl; or (v)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;

$R^1$  is hydrogen; halogen;  $-COR^5$ ;  $-CONR^3R^4$ ; or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl or  $-NR^3R^4$ ; and

$R^2$  is hydrogen;  $-CONR^3R^4$ ; or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl or  $-NR^3R^4$ .

17. (New) The compound of claim 15, wherein:

$R^a$  is hydrogen;

$R^b$  is (iii)  $-(C_1-C_3)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with (b)  $-NR^3R^4$ , wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen and  $R^4$  is heteroaryl, optionally, and independently, substituted with from 1-3 of trifluoromethyl; cyano;  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl; or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; (e) aryl; (f) heteroaryl; (h)  $-(C_3-C_6)$ heterocycloalkyl; (iv)  $-(C_3-C_6)$ cycloalkyl; or (v)  $-(C_3-C_{11})$ heterocycloalkyl;

$R^1$  is hydrogen; fluoro; chloro; bromo;  $-COR^5$ , wherein  $R^5$  is hydroxy or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; or  $-CONR^3R^4$ , wherein  $R^3$  is hydrogen or  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and  $R^4$  is  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy; and

$R^2$  is hydrogen or  $-CONR^3R^4$ , wherein  $R^3$  is  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl; and  $R^4$  is  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, optionally substituted with  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy.

18. (New) A pharmaceutically composition comprising the compound of claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.